

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church on the celebration of 200 years of growth, prosperity and service.

WHEREAS, once in a great while there comes along a special church with a dedicated congregation who, through their unlimited capacity for love, richness of spirit and faith in God, dedicate their efforts to touching and shaping lives, thereby helping to build a better and brighter world; and

WHEREAS, the future of our state depends upon the positive contributions that religion makes to our society; and

WHEREAS, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church has worked to improve the quality of life for African Americans for the past 200 years; and

WHEREAS, 1996 marks the bicentennial year for the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church; and

WHEREAS, this illustrious body, founded by James Varick, Peter Williams, Abraham Thompson, William Brown, William Hamilton, June Scott, Frances Jacobs, Thomas Miller and Samuel Pontier, found it necessary to leave John Street Methodist Church in New York City because African Americans were denied the benefits of full participation in the worship of God and service to His creation; and

WHEREAS, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church was established in order to provide the opportunity of fully developing man's potential through service to God, freely and uninhibited by restraints or restrictions; and

WHEREAS, the AME Zion Church has remained vigilant in its efforts to liberate all people; and

WHEREAS, the institution has continued to progress, allowing for freedom of expression, religious integrity, social responsibility, moral stability, and educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the AME Zion Church is recognized, respected, and actively participates in Knox County and across the state of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, this year, the AME Zion Church is celebrating its 200th anniversary, and the future looks bright for the next two centuries; and

WHEREAS, it is only fitting that this General Assembly recognizes the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church on the occasion of their bicentennial celebration, as their exemplary ministry and historical legacy continues to inspire the Knoxville community and the state of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby recognize and commemorate the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church on the celebration of their 200th anniversary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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